

Abstract

Program content, recorded to a storage medium such as disk recorder, optical recorder or random access memory, is indexed by the replay file system. The file system maintains a storage location and program I.D. record for each recorded program. The file system further maintains other data obtained from an electronic program guide that may be accessed by downloading from the cable or satellite infrastructure or over the internet. The file system also may store additional user data, such as the date and time the program was last viewed, together with any user-recorded indexes. The file system may be accessed through natural language input speech. The system includes a speech recognizer and natural language parser, coupled to a dialog system that engages the user in a dialog to determine what the user is interested in accessing from the storage medium. The natural language parser operates with a task-based grammar that is keyed to the electronic program guide data and user data maintained by the file system.

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